

Message Text

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17

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 180545Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5181

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SANAA 0662

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA

SUBJECT: SAG MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO YAR

1. RECENT UPSURGE IN INSURGENCY IN CENTRAL AREA OF YAR, COMBINED WITH FEELING THAT SAG RESPONDING SLUGGISHLY TO GROWING RADICALIZATION OF SOUTHERN RED SEA AREAS, IS RESURRECTING FEARS OF YARG LEADERS THAT YARG'S FRIENDS ARE NOT ATTACHING SUFFICIENT URGENCY TO YAR'S NEED TO DEVELOP CREDIBLE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY. IN RECENT DAYS BOTH FONMIN ASNAG AND CHIEF OF STAFF GHASHMI HAVE EXPRESSED THEMSELVES TO ME IN THIS VEIN. AS TWO OFFICIALS CLOSEST TO PRESIDENT HAMDI, I AM SURE HE SHARES THEIR VIEWS.

2. ONE PROBLEM IS THAT HIGH-IMPACT VISIT OF DOD FIFER TEAM AND SAG DHAHIRI TEAM HAVE BEEN LARGELY DISSAPATED BY LACK OF FOLLOWUP DISCERNABLE TO YARG LEADERSHIP. AS BEFORE, JORDAN REMAINS ONLY FRIEND ACTUALLY IMPLEMENTING PROGRAM TO BUILD-UP YAR ARMED FORCES AND REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON SOVIETS.

3. FROM RECENT CONSULTATIONS OF DCM NEWTON, WE UNDERSTAND THAT PRESENT USG CONCEPT IS TO DEVELOP "IMPACT PACKAGE" BASED ON SOUND CONCLUSIONS OF FIFER REPORT AND TO PRESENT PACKAGE TO SAG WITH RECOMMENDATION FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION. WE ASSUME THAT AT SAME TIME WE WILL WISH TO SHARE WITH SAG AND YARG BROAD CONCLUSIONS OF REPORT. IN OUR VIEW IT IS ESSENTIAL, HOWEVER, THAT REPORT SHOULD NOT BE PRESENTED TO

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SAG IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY WOULD FEEL IMPELLED TO

"STUDY" IT, THUS BUILDING IN ANOTHER DELAY INTO SITUATION
WHERE ACTION IS NEEDED. YEMENI ARMY, LITTLE AND PRIMITIVE
AS IT IS, HAS BEEN STUDIED TO DEATH.

4. WE WOULD HOPE THEREFORE THAT USG COULD MOVE QUICKLY TO
CONFER WITH SAG ON LATTER'S MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH
A VIEW TO STIMULATING QUICKER SAG ACTION. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF
BROAD OUTLINES OF FIFER REPORT COULD BE DISCUSSED AT THAT TIME
AND "IMPACT" PACKAGE PRESENTED TO SAG WITH RECOMMENDATION
FOR IMPLEMENTING IT. BELIEVE IT MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, THAT
WE ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN QUICKER SAG MOVEMENT. IF FURTHER SIGNIFICANT
WAIT (I.E. MORE THAN TWO WEEKS) NEEDED TO COMPLETE ACTION ON
REPORT AND "IMPACT PACKAGE", BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAKE MPPROACH
NOW WITHOUT THEM. AT SAME TIME WE WOULD PROPOSE INFORMING
YARG OF OUR PLANNED APPROACH TO SAG.

5. WOULD WELCOME JIDDA'S VIEWS ON FOREGOING.
SCOTES

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NNN

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